



Sunday, February 22, 2026

10:00 a.m.



Pastor Erik Allen

“Lenten Priorities”



WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude

“Prelude in G Minor”

J.S. Bach

Announcements

Gathering Song

Prayer of St. Patrick

Call to Worship

P: Today, we follow Jesus into a wilderness full of isolation, fatigue, hunger, thirst, and temptation.

C: We follow, trusting in God’s mercy.

P: We witness Jesus resist the calls of sensationalism, notoriety, and misuse of power for selfish gain.

C: We recognize God’s mercy at work in the face of temptation.

P: We notice the angels who tend Jesus, messengers of care in a harsh and lonely place.

C: We pay attention to God’s merciful presence that did not abandon Jesus and does not abandon us now.

P: We come to the wilderness together, clinging to the truth that we are not alone—God is with us.

C: We gather to worship God, whose unfailing mercy journeys with us into the wildernesses of our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

pass the peace as you feel comfortable

Song

People Need the Lord

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

please be seated

The Offering

“Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

arr. Henry Kihlken

If you would like, you may give online by scanning the QR code
or Offering Plates are located at the back of the Sanctuary.



Offertory Prayer

P: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

Prayers of the Church (*the congregation joins in speaking the first names of those for whom we pray.*)

Members: Liz, Bob, Lee, Marion, Kelly, Marj, Vickie

Family & Friends: Jerry, Melanie, Charles, Mark, Faizah, Chuck,
Sylvia, Bill, Marie, Mary, Carol, Bob

Communion

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen!

Invitation to Communion

P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

please be seated.

Distribution

All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome. Those who do not wish to receive may come forward for a blessing. Please let your server know if you desire a gluten-free wafer.

Benediction

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

Song

Ubuntu

Sending

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

by Johann Wather

Announcements

Midweek Lenten Worship

Please plan to join us Wednesdays at 7:00 pm throughout Lent as we take time over a 40-day period to prepare for Easter. Are you aware of the significance of the number 40 in the Bible?

- ◆ Jesus' 40 days of fasting and temptation in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11).
- ◆ Moses spending 40 days on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments (Exodus 34:28).
- ◆ Elijah's 40-day journey to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8).
- ◆ The 40 days of rain during the Great Flood (Genesis 7:12).
- ◆ The Israelites' 40 years of wandering in the desert (Numbers 14:33)

What a perfect time to dig into the Bible!!!

Share the Story! - Assistant Teacher for Gloryland

If you want to share the stories in the Bible to our youngest disciples, we could sure use your help! We are looking for an assistant teacher to help with the K-5 Gloryland class. If you are interested in helping out or have any questions, please contact Liz Lichtenberger at ehv1215@yahoo.com. There's really nothing better than being the vessel that ignites the love of Jesus in someone's heart.

Confirmation & Youth

Don't miss out on the fun, food and discussions each Sunday evening. Our Confirmation and Youth Groups meet beginning at 5:00 pm. If you're interested in joining and have questions, talk to Pastor Erik or Jenn Stumpp for details.

Weekly Activities

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| • SUNDAY, February 22 | • WEDNESDAY, February 25 |
| 9:00 am Christian Ed | 8:30 am Men's Bible Study |
| 10:00 am Worship | 9:30 am WOW |
| 5:00 pm Bell Rehearsal | 7:00 pm Worship |
| 5:00 pm Confirmation/Youth | 7:30 pm Choir Practice |
| • MONDAY, February 23 | • THURSDAY, February 26 |
| 10:00 am Craft Group | 4:15 pm Girls on the Run |
| 6:30 pm Chinese Choir | 6:15 pm Girl Scouts |
| • TUESDAY, February 24 | • FRIDAY, February 27 |
| 4:15 pm Girls on the Run | 8:00 am Lifeline Screening |
| 7:00 pm Boy Scouts | |

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Theme of the Week: Temptation

When the author of Hebrews reflects on the temptations of Jesus he writes, “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16). Jesus’ victory over Satan’s temptations gives all God’s people the confidence of faith. Where we would have failed, Jesus remained faithful. He remained faithful when tempted with bread. He remained faithful when promised the kingdoms of the world. He remained faithful when tempted with flee from suffering. Thanks be to God! For in Christ we now know we have access to God’s throne of grace for help in the time of temptation.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 4:1–11 Temptation in the Wilderness

Jesus was tempted as we are, but He resisted where we all too often fail. The devil’s tactics do not change. The tempter comes when Jesus is at His physical weakest. In arrogance, Satan believes he can turn Jesus away from the cross, from suffering, from being the One who “will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). Yet in the face of these temptations, Jesus places His fear, love, and trust in the God. His victory is given to us in baptism, where we are joined to His life, death, and resurrection. *Lord, help us to fear, love, and trust in you above all things. Amen.*

MONDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 32 Blessed is the One

“Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed are those against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.” This is a central beatitude from which many others flow. The knowledge of God’s judgment against sin can feel like a scorching sun at high noon. Seeing our sin in the blinding light of the law does not give us a way to earn our way back to God; it reveals our need for mercy. It can dry up our strength and leave us weary. But when we confess our sin, the Lord speaks a better Word: for the sake of Christ, who has died and risen, we are forgiven. *Grant us to confess our sins honestly, that we may rejoice in Christ’s mercy. Amen.*

TUESDAY SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 6:1–10 Today Is the Day of Repentance

As we observe the season of Lent, we turn again to repentance and renewal. Echoing the psalms, we are reminded to seek the Lord. Paul tells us that now is the day of salvation. Today is the day of repentance. We turn to God today and every day, trusting in the promise that God graciously forgives all who come in faith. This is the gift we receive through Jesus Christ because of His death and resurrection for us and for the world. *O Lord, we thank you for your abundant forgiveness. Hold us in your hands and call us daily into repentance and new life. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3:1–24 The Law and the Gospel

It may seem as if the serpent had won the day. Adam and Eve took and ate from the tree. Humanity came to know evil and sin, though we were never created for death. With sin unleashed and death at work, our first parents feared God would come only with judgment. Yet God comes also with promise. Judgment falls but mercy is still spoken to humanity. The first gospel is proclaimed in verse 15: the offspring of Eve—God in the flesh, Jesus Christ—would suffer, yet in that suffering would defeat the power of sin and death. Through the cross and resurrection, Christ crushes the serpent and claims us as God’s own. *Gracious God, grant us the hope of your Son’s victory. Amen.*

THURSDAY SCRIPTURE: Luke 22:24–32 Servant Leadership

A “benefactor” is one who does good for others. Jesus teaches that among the nations, rulers exercise authority and are called benefactors. Yet in God’s reign, greatness is found in serving. Good works cannot be done by proxy; they flow from lives freed by grace. Those who follow Christ are called to serve one another with humility and love. Jesus himself stoops to serve us through the gospel of grace, feeding and forgiving us. He is our Lord and yet calls us friends and siblings in faith. *Lord, help us to serve as you have served us. Amen.*

FRIDAY SCRIPTURE: James 1:2–15 Trials Cannot Destroy Your Joy

In the midst of trials and temptation, we, the people of God, stand firm in hope. Our confidence rests in Jesus Christ. We know we are blessed both by and in Him. The crown of life is God’s promised gift. In the face of adversity, our joy is not destroyed, because our life is connected to Christ. The world says joy is found only in comfort or pleasure, but our joy is deeper. It is rooted in the resurrection and in God’s steadfast love. *Lord of all, give us steadfast faith that we may endure trials with hope and joy. Amen.*

SATURDAY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:25–30 Rest for Your Souls

We may be tempted to think of Lent only as a season of heaviness or sorrow over sin. Yet Lent is also a season of grace, where we are reminded Jesus Christ has become our rock and refuge. This is not a time to be overwhelmed by the power of sin, but a time to hear God’s gracious promise. We labor under the weight of the law and the burdens of life. Christ comes to give us rest. His yoke is light, for it is grounded in grace and faith, not in our striving. In Jesus we see the depth of God’s love poured out on the cross, and we receive rest for our souls. *Merciful God, grant us rest and renewal through the proclamation of your grace. Amen.*